

troop contingents in Saudi Arabia before Desert Storm, while our young people were gathering there, weapon in hand, as it were, our Government shut down.

What kind of a spectacle is that? This is in December 1990, the troops were already amassing in Saudi Arabia and were poised to launch the eventual Desert Storm activity, and our Government shut down.

Is that not shameful, to have the Government, which is sponsoring the activities of our young members of the Armed Forces, to shut down? They were over in Saudi Arabia without a government back home. Now, that is disgraceful.

Well, prior to that time even, when we sensed the urgency of what happens when the Government shuts down, I introduced a piece of legislation which I want to redescribe here today, which would end shutdowns forever. If we adopted my legislation, I repeat, never again would we witness or experience a Government shutdown. It is so simple in its aspect that the reason that people have told me that it has not passed up until now is because it makes too good sense. It makes common sense, and that is why it cannot get through Congress.

Here is what happens: At the end of the fiscal year on September 30, if the Congress has not adopted a new budget which is due by midnight September 30 or October 1, then my bill, if enacted, would automatically cause an instant replay, as it were, everybody recognizes that, an instant replay of last year's budget.

In its lowest denominator terms, last year's budget, or if the House has passed an appropriations bill that is lower than the last year's bill, or the Senate has, we take the lowest figure and instant replay what occurred the next day, October 1, and our budget would be in place, no shutdown could occur, the employees of the Federal Government would continue with their functions, our Armed Forces would continue in their duties to our people, and everything would go on normally, and the Congress would still have an opportunity with the White House to negotiate the next year's budget. In the meantime, we will have ongoing portions of last year's budget.

Is that not simple? Should we not have that kind of resolution of this vexatious problem?

The bill that I introduced again this cycle was one which became the subject of my entreaties before the Committee on Rules, and an amazing thing happened. In previous times when the Democrat Party controlled the Committee on Rules, I went before them and each time they slammed the door in my face. Only the Republicans supported me on that measure each time I appeared before the Committee on Rules.

The reverse has now happened. It is time to end Government shutdowns forever. Support the Gekas bill.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. There being no further requests for morning business, pursuant to clause 12, rule 1, the House will stand in recess until 12 noon.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 37 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess until 12 noon.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore [Mr. WALKER] at 12 noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Rev. James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

Teach us, O God, to make good use of our time, that precious gift that we use to our benefit or to our harm. When we have new opportunities and health we think that time will never end, and when we face the adversities or afflictions that certainly come, our span of days runs out and we yearn for more time. Encourage us, O gracious God, to use our time wisely so that we do not miss Your blessings of faith and hope and love but rather embrace them, hold to them, and never let them go. In Your name, we pray. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The SPEAKER pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Edwin Thomas, one of his secretaries.

SUPPORT H.R. 497, NATIONAL GAMBLING IMPACT AND POLICY COMMISSION ACT

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, shortly we will be bringing up a very important

piece of legislation that will be setting up a national commission to study the impact of gambling which is running rampant in the country. Quite frankly the country is turning into one gambling casino as gambling spreads and spreads and spreads. As gambling proliferates in casinos on riverboats, on Indian reservations, dog and horse tracks and elsewhere, problems such as crime, political corruption, cannibalization of existing businesses, gambling addiction, family breakups, and suicides are growing, which is an unfortunate consequence.

This legislation we are about to take up will create an unbiased, bipartisan nine-member commission to finally take a comprehensive look at these problems.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to make sure all the Members know that we have finally been able to bring this bill to fruition. Last Wednesday, July 17, the full Senate passed by unanimous consent H.R. 497 with an amendment and, despite public pronouncements of the gambling industry in support of an unbiased study, tremendous lobbying pressure was brought to bear on Senators to kill or gut this bill. It is a tribute to this deliberative body that such pressures, which clearly represented the opposition of a small but powerful minority, were not able to thwart the will of the vast majority of Congress and the American people.

In the process, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Senate Majority Leader TRENT LOTT who, notwithstanding some concerns he had about the legislation, exerted great leadership in bringing H.R. 497 to a vote. He is a man of his word, of honor and integrity.

REPORT ON DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LIBYA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 104-248)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

To the Congress of the United States:

I hereby report to the Congress on the developments since my last report of January 22, 1996, concerning the national emergency with respect to Libya that was declared in Executive Order No. 12543 of January 7, 1986. This report is submitted pursuant to section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act ("IEEPA"), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); and section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c).

1. On January 3, 1996, I renewed for another year the national emergency